

Assembly Bill No. 1492

CHAPTER 451

An act to add Section 24617 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

[Approved by Governor October 10, 2007. Filed with
Secretary of State October 10, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1492, Laird. Vehicles: transit buses: right-of-way.

Existing law requires a driver to yield the right-of-way to an approaching authorized emergency vehicle that is sounding a siren and has at least one lighted lamp exhibiting a red light.

This bill would, in the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, if the applicable entity approves a resolution, authorize a transit bus to be equipped with a specified yield right-of-way sign on the left rear of the bus. The bill would require a participating transit agency to undertake a public education program to encourage motorists to yield to a transit bus when the sign is activated.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 24617 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

24617. (a) A transit bus may be authorized to be equipped with a yield right-of-way sign on the left rear of the bus. The yield right-of-way sign may flash simultaneously with the rear turn signal lamps, but is not required to do so. The sign shall be both of the following:

(1) Designed to warn a person operating a motor vehicle approaching the rear of the bus that the bus is entering traffic.

(2) Illuminated by a red flashing light when the bus is signaling in preparation for entering a traffic lane after having stopped to receive or discharge passengers.

(b) Nothing in this section requires a transit agency to install the yield right-of-way sign described in subdivision (a).

(c) This section does not relieve the driver of a transit bus from the duty to drive the bus with due regard for the safety of all persons and property. This section does not exempt the driver of a transit bus from the requirements of Section 21804.

(d) This section applies only to the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, if the governing board of the applicable district approves a resolution, after a public hearing on the issue, requesting that this section be made applicable to it.

(e) Each participating transit agency shall undertake a public education program to encourage motorists to yield to a transit bus when the sign specified in subdivision (a) is activated.

SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution because of unique circumstances of community familiarity with the program in Section 1, applicable only to the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and the Santa Clara County Transit District.